

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 10-11, 18-19, 25-26, and 32-33.

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

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1. (ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function, said telephone capable of connecting with at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said telephone comprising:

access means for accessing to the mail server;

a mail memory for storing an electronic mail downloaded from the mail server through the access means;

a mail status memory for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the terminal devices, wherein said status memory means stores whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices;

and

transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory to one of the terminal devices, wherein the main managing function is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices.

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3. (ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

a process table for storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail [after down-loading for] the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices.

B2 4. (ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 3, said [the] process to be applied to the electronic mail [after down-loading] includes [to delete] deleting the electronic mail and [to keep] keeping the electronic mail.

5. (NOT AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:
emergency process means for judging whether or not a priority process is necessary based on the electronic mail received from each of the terminal devices and for executing an access to the mail server when the priority process is executed.

B3 6. (ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:
an identifier memory for storing an identifier of an terminal device to be connected[;
wherein it is permitted to access from the terminal device of which an identifier coincides with the stored identifier], permits an access from the terminal device in case that the identifier coincides with the stored identifier.

SUB C3 7. (ONCE AMENDED) A mail managing method in a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:
a reading [step] process of reading a mail stored in the mail server;
a storing [step] process of storing the mail read in the reading step;
a display [step] process of displaying a status of the mail stored in the storing [step] process for each of the terminal devices, wherein said status includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission [step] process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing step to one of the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices.

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8. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program used for a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said program comprising:

a reading [step] process of reading a mail stored in the mail server;

a storing [step] process of storing the mail read in the reading [step] process;

a display [step] process of displaying a status of the mail stored in the storing [step] for each of the terminal devices, wherein said status includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission [step] process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing [step] process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the main managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

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a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address; and

a mail memory unit storing the received electronic mail;

[and]

a mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein the each status of the mail status memory means indicates whether or not the electronic mail

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received by the electronic managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and comprising a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices.

10. (CANCELED)

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12. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim [11] 2 further comprising:

process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

13. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 12 further comprising:

means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and

means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

14. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said electronic managing apparatus is emergency processing means for judging

whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

15. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 14 further comprising:

identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

16. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided in a telephone.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method in an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address;

[and]

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit; [and]

storing in a status memory unit each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail

memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status of the status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic managing apparatus for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices.

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18. ~~(CANCELED)~~

19. (CANCELED).

20. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

21. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;
and
transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

22. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 21 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and
executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

23. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

24. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program executing an electronic mail management in an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, the program comprising:

receiving an electronic mail sent to a predetermined address from a mail server which stores therein the electronic mail addressed to an address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit; [and]

storing in a status memory unit each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic managing apparatus for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

transmitting the electronic mail stored in the memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail management is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices.

25. (CANCELED)

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27. (NOT AMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

28. (NOT AMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;

and

transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

29. (NOT AMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 28 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and

executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

30. (NOT AMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

31. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system comprising[];
an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address; and
a plurality of terminal devices capable of communicating with the electronic mail managing apparatus; and wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus comprising:

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a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address;

a mail memory unit storing therein the received electronic mail; [and]

mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status of the mail status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices.

32. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:

mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices.

33. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 32, wherein each status of the mail status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the associated terminal device.

34. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:

process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

35. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:
means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and
means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

36. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic managing apparatus further comprising:
emergency processing means for judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

37. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:
identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

38. (NOT AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is a telephone.

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed August 16, 2000, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,891) in view of Murakami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,178), claims 9, 16, 17, 31, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Brunson (U.S. Patent No. 5,781,614), and claims 10-15, 18-23, 25-30, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Brunson and further in view of Murakami. The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.